

## Personal Development – Living in the Wider World Spring 1: The Wider World

**Headteacher - Caroline Lowing**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In their final year at Thornden, students continue to engage with our Personal Development curriculum as part of the wider Safeguarding Curriculum. This half term's theme, Living in the Wider World, supports students in preparing for life after Year 11 — including further education, employment, independence and responsible citizenship.

### Why This Matters in Year 11

As students approach key exams and transition into post-16 education or training, they face increasing responsibilities and decisions. This module helps them understand financial independence, employability, their rights as young adults and the expectations of the wider world.

### This Half-Term's Topics

(From the Year 11 Living in the Wider World programme)

Your child will explore:

1. Preparing for post-16 choices and understanding pathways
2. Financial independence, credit, loans and avoiding debt
3. Employment rights and responsibilities
4. Skills for interviews, applications and transitioning to college or work
5. Managing online identity, professionalism and digital reputation
6. Understanding community participation, citizenship and contribution

These lessons are designed to empower students as they move towards independence and adulthood, equipping them with the practical skills and confidence needed for the next stage of their journey.

### Intended Impact

By the end of the term, students will:

1. Be more confident in making informed post-16 decisions
2. Understand their financial responsibilities and how to avoid financial risk

3. Know their rights and responsibilities as young adults entering work or further study
4. Be prepared for interviews, applications and transitions
5. Recognise the importance of active citizenship and positive contribution

Thank you for your partnership in supporting our students as they prepare to take their next steps beyond Thornden.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AT', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Thomas  
Deputy Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead